

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Process for high speed metal strip electroplating of a moving strip comprising:

plating the moving strip by anodically dissolving tin anodes facing the strip into an electroplating solution, and depositing [[said]] anodically dissolved tin from the tin anodes on at least part of the strip acting as a cathode,

wherein each anode comprises an anode basket having a front wall facing a side of the moving strip and the tin of the tin anodes is supplied to the electroplating solution in the form of tin pellets held in [[an]] each said anode basket,

wherein [[part] edge portions of the wall of the tin anodes elongated generally parallel to the direction of movement of the facing moving strip are [[is]] masked out using adjustable masking means comprising moveable edge masks elongated generally parallel to the direction of movement of the facing moving strip, the adjustable masking means controlled and guided dependent on strip width and/or tin coating thickness distribution.

2. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the masking means comprise a shutter or blind.

3. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the tin pellets are electrically contacted via a current collector made of a material with a low electrical resistance allowing for good electrical contact with the tin pellets and being electrochemically inert in the electrolyte.

4. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 3, wherein the anode basket is the current collector.

5. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein an automated supply system is provided to add the tin pellets to the anode basket.

6. (New) Process according to claim 1, wherein the transverse overlap of the edge mask and strip ranges from 30 to 60 mm.

7. (New) Process according to claim 1, wherein the edge masks move to adjust lateral overlap from a distance from the plating line.

8. (New) Process according to claim 1, wherein a remainder of space on the front wall between the moveable edge masks is open.

9. (New) Process according to claim 1, wherein the anode has a top and a bottom and the anode is closer to the strip at the bottom than at the top.

10. (New) Process according to claim 1, wherein the edge portions of the wall of the tin anodes are elongated generally vertically and the moveable edge masks are elongated generally vertically.

11. (New) Process according to claim 1, wherein the longitudinal axis of the moving strip facing the front wall does not oppose the moveable edge masks.